

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2011
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name: **Allatoona Lake**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Allatoona Lake Chestnut Restoration Project**

Corps POC Name: **Christopher Purvis**

Telephone: **(678) 721 - 6725** ext.

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A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Is the funding going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained at 100% federal expense? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP? ** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

4. If no, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (example: Sept 10)

**If "No" to either question 1 or 2 the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

*** If "No" to question 3 and the date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.*

B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$25,000): 11000

C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include an organization (cooperating associations, friends groups) with which your project/district has recently (after January 1, 2009) entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. You must include a copy of the signed agreement with your proposal. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

Date of Cooperating Association Agreement: (must be after January 1, 2009 to be eligible).

D. Incentive Points Categories: Check the box for each category that applies to your Challenge Partnership Agreement and include an explanation in the project description (Section E.). Qualifying applications will receive bonus points on their evaluation score.

☒ Utilizes an existing National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - National Partner MOU's are posted on the NRM Gateway <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/list.html>). Local and regional chapters of national partner organizations are eligible. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

☐ Includes a veterans and/or military family organization. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

☒ Presidents Challenge - Active Lifestyle Program: Project provides specific opportunities for children and their families to get outdoors and participate in activities in order to receive a Presidents Active Lifestyle Award. http://www.presidentschallenge.org/the_challenge/active_lifestyle.aspx

E. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness. Please address each in your description. Also address incentive point categories you have identified in Section D.

Description:

The American Chestnut tree was an essential component of the entire eastern U.S. ecosystem. A late-flowering, reliable, and productive tree, unaffected by seasonal frosts, it was the single most important food source for a wide variety of wildlife from bears to birds. In the early 20th Century, a disease known as the Chestnut Blight was introduced to the North America Chestnut population. The blight, imported to the US on Asian Chestnut trees, is a fungus dispersed via spores in the air, raindrops or animals. The blight successfully wiped out almost the entire Chestnut population in the eastern US, a population once as numerous as the Oak.

While the American Chestnut trees died, the root systems of chestnut's still lived and provided new trees where the old ones once grew. These trees too are susceptible to the blight and usually live to an average age of 5-10 years old. It's from these trees though, that the American Chestnut Foundation created a backcross breeding program that took Chinese Chestnut trees, naturally resistant to the blight, and crossed them with their American cousins. New blight resistant trees are now being colonized basically made up of 75% American Chestnut and 25% Asian Chestnut.

The Allatoona Lake Project has proposed a partnership with the Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Society. The project would consist of the American Chestnut Society providing both blight resistant seeds and backcrossed trees for planting. The society will also offer expert analysis and advice on the project including soil testing, test orchards, and assistance with backcrossed orchards. The Corps at Allatoona would provide areas suitable for planting, such as areas once used as food plots and recent timber harvest areas. The Corps would also offer security for the orchards through remote locations as well as ranger patrols.

With Handshake Program funds, the Allatoona Lake Project has proposed to the American Chestnut Society that a "demonstration site" be created, much like the current Longleaf Pine Demonstration Partnership Site located at Red Top Mountain State Park on Allatoona Lake. A site located in a Corps managed area will be chosen for a small orchard of chestnuts. Here, a small parking lot and an interpretive trail with interpretive panels will be created to help the public understand the story and significance of the American Chestnut tree. As well, a separate interpretive display will also be added to the recently renovated Allatoona Operations Project Management Office and Visitor Center (Handshake 2009). This display also will educate visitors of the importance of the American Chestnut.

Sustainability: The benefits of the Allatoona Lake Chestnut Restoration Program will have a lifelong effect on visitors to the lake with the potential to educate visitors about an American tree once thought of as the grandfather of all trees. With proper maintenance and protection, this project should be sustainable for many years. Yearly orchard, trail and parking lot maintenance by staff, volunteers and routine work by the Allatoona Lake maintenance contractor will keep the program in proper shape for decades. Interpretive signs to be installed in this project have a life expectancy of 12 years or more. Inside displays at the visitor center should have an education value lasting decades. Expansion of the chestnut population into other areas would also be an important component, with a sustained population hopefully lasting for centuries. Further, another positive aspect to this partnership is that it can be built upon and expanded in the future with the success of this project.

Partnership Value: The US Army Corps of Engineers already has a National MOU signed with the American Chestnut Foundation but this will be the first partnering between Allatoona Lake and the Georgia Chapter of the

ACF. However, several members of the local ACF have been involved with the Allatoona Lake's Longleaf Pine Restoration Program (Handshake 2007) and have built strong relationships with Allatoona staff as well as Mobile District representatives. Other current partnerships with Trees Bartow, Keep Bartow Beautiful, Wildlife Action and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources can also be expanded into this program. Volunteers from these partners will help with orchard plantings in spring. The National Wild Turkey Federation has also shown interest in the program and has signed National MOU's with USACE and the ACF. The partnerships opportunities on this project can be wide reaching with several private foundations and agencies providing assistance.

Recreation Benefit: When completed, the small trail at the demonstration site will offer the public a short half mile trail that not only will get the visitor out on their feet, but educates at the same time. Further interpretive displays at the Allatoona Project Management Office will attract a wider variety of visitors, offering new environmental education displays as well as current displays, recreation trails and nearby day use areas.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit: Before the species was devastated by the chestnut blight, it was one of the most important forest trees throughout its range. A rapidly growing deciduous hardwood tree, it reached up to 30–45 meters (100–150 ft) tall and 3 meters (10 ft) in diameter. The American Chestnut was also very important tree for wildlife, providing much of the fall mast for species such as White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey. To say that the reintroduction of a blight free tree would be huge to the area is an understatement. It's of national significance that this tree is saved and reintroduced to the nation and a people that mostly only recognize the tree from a song that toasts its nuts "roasting on an open fire".

Communication and Education Value: This environmental program will increase public awareness of the Corps of Engineers' mission and will create a positive public image of the Corps of Engineers and our partners. The reintroduction of a tree of national significance to the eastern forests of North America will have a wide influence on people not only environmentally, but on their education as well. This program will teach the public of the historical significance and down fall of this magnificent tree as well as educate on the dangers of introducing non-native plants and animals to the fragile eco-system. The interpretive trail will build upon the National Get Outdoors initiatives and also gives families and individuals a healthy activity that is convenient to where they live. New interpretive signs and displays will be extremely informative and educational and gives the public new recreation options around the lake and bring them into contact with other programs that may not have previously encountered.

Innovativeness: Reduced budgets throughout the Corps and everywhere, call for new innovative partnerships. This partnership will utilize already standing relationships to reintroduce an American icon and build stronger educational and recreation opportunities which are in the best interest to all parties. This partnership is unique because it focuses not only on an important environmental project, but also will educate the public and offer additional recreation opportunities. This, while also reinforcing current partnership relationships that often go by the wayside at projects end. The Allatoona Lake Chestnut Restoration Project is a hugely positive program that will benefit area wildlife, the public, our partners and the Corps.

Section D: Allatoona Lake will be utilizing a National MOU already signed between the US Army Corps of Engineers and The American Chestnut Foundation. A further National MOU signed between the National Wild Turkey Federation may also be utilized with the likely addition of this partner into the program. This program will also provide recreation opportunities for children and their parents through the Presidents Challenge program, introducing them to educational and recreational trails and displays.

The Corps will:

- Provide areas suitable for planting, such as abandoned food plots and recent timber harvest areas.

- Offer security for the orchards through remote locations as well as ranger patrols.
- Offer educational opportunities to the public concerning project.
- Assist in planning for the project.
- Assist with planting trees and seeds.

The Partner(s) will:

- Providing blight resistant seeds and backcrossed trees for planting.
- Offer expert analysis and advice on the project including planning of the project, soil testing and test orchards.
- Provide assistance with backcrossed orchards and with planting.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Allatoona Lake

Work Project Title: Allatoona Lake Chesnut Restoration Project

POC Name: Chris Purvis

Address: 1138 GA Highway Spur 20

City: Cartersville

State: GA Zip Code: 30121

Telephone: 678-721-6725

Location on Project: Several Areas

Partner Organization 1: The American Chesnut Foundation Georgia Chapter

POC Name: Joe Nicholson

Address: 1952 Huntington Hall Ct

City: Dunwoody

State: GA Zip Code: 30338

Telephone: 770-394-7654

Partner Organization 2:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Proposed start date of work:

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership:

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$7,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies		\$2,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
Total	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
Share of Total Cost	22.5%	27.5%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: \$7000 listed under other would cover cost of interpretive displays at Chestnut Demonstration Site and at Allatoona Operation Project Management Office and Visitor Center.